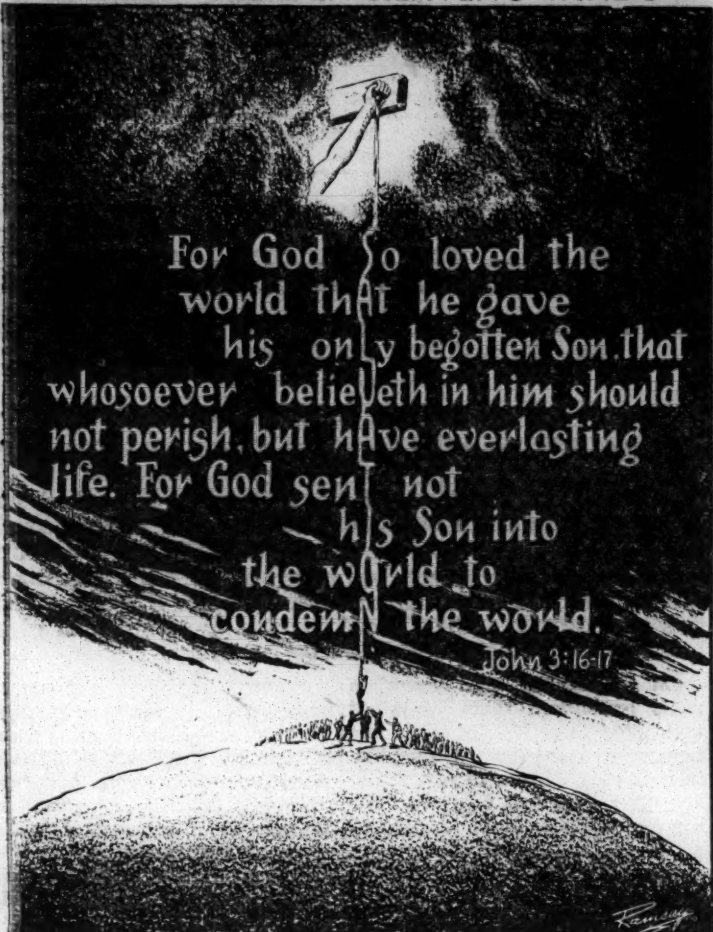


The Gospel at a Glance

By Charles L. Ramsay

A SCARLET CORD IN HEAVEN'S WINDOW



This is another in a series of original Christian cartoons drawn by Charles L. Ramsay which have been appearing weekly in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. The first edition of 101 Christian Cartoons was completely exhausted. A second edition has been prepared and will be available July 1. Orders are now being accepted at \$1.00 per copy.

Jesus May Come Today!

(Continued from page 1)

The Scriptural signs given show that when they are fulfilled, the coming of the Lord draws nigh. But all these Scriptures quoted above show that the coming of the Lord might have been at any time from Pentecost on until now. For that reason all the signs of the second coming are left indefinite in degree. Wars grow worse and worse, but the Scripture never says just how much war must occur before the Saviour comes. Worldliness and unbelief in the churches grow worse and worse, an accelerating and increasingly weighty evidence that the Saviour's return is "even at the door." But some of this worldliness has been in the churches from the beginning, and how far wrong the church will go before the Saviour's return is not revealed in the Bible. There is not one single sign for which Christians have needed to wait before they should expect the return of the Saviour. And not one single event has occurred or will occur definitely enough that any person can know the day or hour of His return.

I. Christ's Imminent Return Clearly Stated By Christ Himself

The Bible is full of teaching about the second coming of Christ and related events. Those of us who take the Bible literally and believe it all and are therefore premillennialists, expecting the literal, bodily, physical return of Christ and His reign upon earth as foretold in the Scriptures, have much to preach. We have the great themes of the resurrection; the rapture or meeting Christ in the air; the judgment seat of Christ; the great tribulation; the man of sin, or Antichrist; the glorious return of Christ with

saints and angels; the battle of Armageddon; the restoration of the Jews to Palestine; the judgment of the living nations; the millennial reign of Christ on David's throne, etc. All these matters ought to be preached for they are clearly taught in the Bible. But, very strangely, we often neglect the greatest theme in connection with the Saviour's coming, and that is that His coming is imminent, and that every Christian is commanded to watch! watch! for no man knows the day nor hour when He shall come.

Whatever Jesus taught about His second coming, the point of His message was always this: that His coming is to be sudden, unexpected, and surprising so that every Christian should be ready for His coming at any moment.

In the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew, after thirty-five verses concerned with the second coming, then Jesus said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

From verses 36 to 51, the last sixteen verses of the same chapter, Jesus earnestly urges the unexpectedness and imminence of His coming. In verse 42 He says, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." And in verse 44 He says, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

The angels do not know when Jesus will return. Jesus Himself, while in the flesh, did not know when He would return as He Himself said in Mark 13:32.

Then in Mark 13:33 He said, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

And in Mark 13:37 He repeats again His warning, saying: "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

In Matthew 25:13 Jesus closes the parable of the ten virgins, saying: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

In Luke 12:40, after warning Christians that they should be "like unto men that wait for their Lord," telling them "And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those

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servants" (Luke 12:38), and next reminding them how a man should be constantly watching lest the thief should break in and steal (verse 39) then Jesus said, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

Only one honest meaning is possible in these Scriptures: Jesus may come today!

If the Bible is a trustworthy book, then Jesus might have returned even in the lifetime of these New Testament Christians. He might have returned any time during the centuries since then, or He may return now at any moment. If the Father Himself has set the time, then He has not revealed it even to the angels and certainly not to any man. He may come today. There is no other possible meaning to these Scriptures.

He has put no promised event before the Saviour's coming. There are no Scriptures yet to be fulfilled before Jesus comes, and we are commanded plainly, repeatedly, insistently to watch for His coming.

If you do not believe that the coming of Christ is imminent, then you make Christ Himself a deceiver. It would have been cruel and insincere for Jesus to have all the apostles and New Testament Christians earnestly watching for His return if it was already a settled fact that He could not return for thousands of years. No, the words of Jesus were true words, and they are as good today for us as they were the day they were uttered to the apostles. Jesus may come this very day, yea, this very hour. We may hear the sound of the trumpet and may feel ourselves suddenly changed and caught up to meet the Lord in the air where we will be gathered with the saints of all ages and carried to the Father's house of many mansions while the unsaved are left on a wicked world, turned over to sin and to the man of sin until we shall return with Christ to reign. Today I may see Jesus! Today I may see my mother, my father, my baby brothers! Today I may enter into the reward of my labors. Today I may lay down my burdens, lay down my sorrows, lay down my weaknesses, lay down my disappointments, lay down my frail, sinful body! Today I may be clothed upon with a glorious body like that of our Saviour! Oh! today I may see Jesus and report and bring in my sheaves rejoicing, and kiss His dear feet! May God grant that I will not be ashamed before Him at His coming but that I may be watching with my lamp trimmed and burning when I hear the great shout, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him!" Jesus may come this very day! Hallelujah!

II. His Imminent Second Coming Illustrated By Jesus

How precious this doctrine is to the Saviour and how important to His disciples we can see by the way He repeated it and illustrated it. Notice the illustrations the Saviour gave.

1. The second coming will be like the flood in the days of Noah. Jesus said:

"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood

came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."—Matt. 24:37-39.

The fact of the coming flood had been clearly foretold. For one hundred years Noah had been building an ark and preparing for the flood. You may be sure that everybody in the inhabited portion of the earth knew of God's warning. You could no more keep the ark a secret than if in the Panhandle of Texas or in the mountains of Arkansas men should work for a hundred years building a ship like the Titanic or the Queen Mary! Noah's preaching "got over." Yet the people did not know when the flood would come. They did not believe it. Noah himself did not know when. The Lord gave no definite date. Noah went into the ark when he was commanded, and God shut the door. Even then the flood did not come for seven days. There were no preceding signs by which they could be sure of the exact date of the threatened deluge, even if they had believed it was coming, so the men of that age "were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark." That is the way it will be, the Saviour says, when He comes. People will be as unprepared and His coming will be as sudden and unexpected.

2. The Saviour's coming is likened to the coming of the bridegroom whose bridesmaids have been waiting until far into the night (Matt. 25:1-13). Some of the bridesmaids had no oil and expected their dry wicks to burn until he came, but their lamps went out. All of them, the wise and the foolish, those with the oil of salvation and those with only the lamps of profession, "slumbered and slept." And then at midnight His coming was so sudden and unexpected that those who had no oil did not have time to secure it but were left without and missed the wedding.

And so there could be no doubt of His meaning, for the closing verse of the parable says,

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

The point of the parable of the ten virgins is this, that the coming of Jesus is imminent. He may come today, so therefore be ready.

The virgins knew the bridegroom was coming, but just when they did not know. He might have returned at once. They ought to have been ready at any moment.

It is strange that people would so pervert the Scriptures as to miss the very heart of the Saviour's teaching here. Yet a few years ago the story of the ten virgins was given in the International Sunday School Lessons but only the first twelve verses were printed. The thirteenth verse where Jesus gives the conclusion and lesson of the parable was omitted entirely in the Sunday School quarterlies that I saw. The Saviour's second coming was not even mentioned! The parable of the ten virgins is not simply a lesson on preparedness. It is a lesson on preparedness—not for usefulness, not even for death primarily—but preparedness for the second coming of Christ. The lesson is that Jesus may come at any moment, so watch and be ready!

3. The second coming is as imminent as a master returning to his home after a long journey. Jesus used this illustration more than once. In Matthew 24:45-47 Jesus said:

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made

ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods."

The return of such a master is imminent. That is, he ought to be expected at any moment, and it is a faithful and wise servant who earnestly does his duty day by day looking forward to his master's return.

But there are those who say that "my Lord delayeth His coming," and that we ought not to expect Him momentarily now. For such the Saviour continued the same parable in verses 48-51 as follows:

"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This is a picture, perhaps, of an unsaved one. But unsaved are as much accountable to Jesus as the saved. All a sinner has gets from God, and he must give an account to the Lord Jesus Christ whether he loves Him or not. This world belongs to Jesus Christ and one day He is going to claim it. Meantime, all who read this had better be ready for Jesus to come for they shall certainly have to give an account for their stewardship even if they have not been converted.

And what a sad teaching this is! Don't you see that one who says in his heart, "My lord delayeth his coming," is not right in his heart? He is not anxious for Jesus to come, perhaps is not willing for Jesus to come, and therefore does not watch. This Scripture indicates that it is always unbelief and sin that keeps one from eagerly watching for Jesus to come.

Jesus taught the same matter in Mark 13:34-37, and verse 35 says, "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning." Surely the coming of Jesus may be today, may be any moment.

The imminence of the Saviour's coming He illustrated by the unexpected thief.

In Matthew 24:43, 44, Jesus said, "But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye (Continued on page 8)

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Indispensable Factors In Revival

By Jonathan Goforth
Presbyterian Missionary-Evangelist in China 1888-1934

A missionary once remarked apologetically to me: "I have always longed for revival; but my station is so out-of-the-way that it is impossible for me to obtain the services of an evangelist." As if the Spirit of God is necessarily limited in His workings to a select few! We wish to state most emphatically as our conviction that God's revival may be had when we will and where we will. That peer of evangelists, Mr. C. G. Finney, believed that any body of Christian people, provided they wholeheartedly and unreservedly carried out God's will, could have revival.

Mr. D. L. Moody was continually urging that Pentecost was merely a specimen day. Most certainly it is not to be misunderstood from these pages that the Orient is peculiarly suited to revival. We have seen audiences in the home-lands moved in exactly the same way as in China. True, it usually takes longer. But, whether it takes a day or whether it takes a fortnight, the principle is clear that any group of seeking Christians may receive the full blessing of Pentecost.

Our reading of the Word of God makes it inconceivable to us that the Holy Spirit should be willing, even for a day, to delay His work. We may be sure that, where there is a lack of the fullness of God, it is ever due to man's lack of faith and obedience. If God the Holy Spirit is not glorifying Jesus Christ in the world today, as at Pentecost, it is we who are to blame. After all, what is revival but simply the Spirit of God fully controlling in the surrendered life? It must always be possible, then, when man yields. The sin of unyieldedness, alone, can keep us from revival.

Prayer in Revival

But are we ready to receive Him? Do we value the Giver and the gift sufficiently? Are we ready to pay the price of Holy Ghost revival? Take prayer for example. The history of revival shows plainly that all movements of the Spirit have started in prayer. Yet is it not right there that many of us wilt and falter at the cost? The Bible does not tell us very much of what went on in that Upper Room in Jerusalem between our Lord's ascension and the Day of Pentecost. But we may be reasonably certain that that little band of disciples begrudged every minute that was spent off their knees. There was so much to be got rid of, so many hindering things to be laid away, so much gold to be refined, so much dross to be consumed. The Day of Pentecost told best what had passed in that Upper Room. We know, too, that all subsequent outpourings of the Spirit were linked with prayer. "And when they prayed," Luke tells us, "the place was shaken where they were assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spake the Word of God with boldness" (Acts iv. 31).

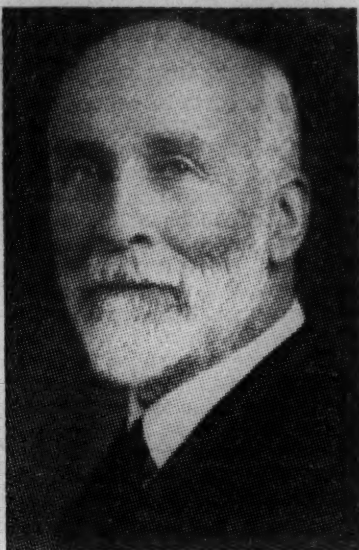
The mighty spiritual upheavals in Reformation times, came largely as the result of prayer. It is said of Luther that he could get anything from God he asked for. Mary Queen of Scots had a greater

dread of the prayers of John Knox than of all the armies of England. That glorious movement of the Spirit which fused the discordant elements among the Moravians at Herrnhut in 1727, and transformed them into what has been the mightiest evangelizing force in the world for the past two centuries, was born in prayer. "Was there ever in the whole of Church history," writes Bishop Hassé, "such an astonishing prayer-meeting as that which, beginning (at Herrnhut) in 1727, went on one hundred years? It is something absolutely unique. It was known as the 'Hourly Intercession,' and it meant that by relays of brethren and sisters prayer without ceasing was made to God for all the works and wants of His Church. Prayer of that kind always leads to action. In this case it kindled a burning desire to make Christ's salvation known to the heathen. It led to the beginning of modern foreign missions. From that one small village community more than one hundred missionaries went out in twenty-five years. We will look in vain elsewhere for anything to match it in anything like the same extent." But is there any reason, may we ask, why the Moravian movement should not be matched today? It is not likely that the Eternal Spirit has grown weary. Surely we may count on it that the blessing is waiting for us, if we will only get down on our knees and ask for it.

Perhaps the most striking phase of the Wesleyan movement was the emphasis which its leaders laid on prayer. Their regular practice was to pray from four to five in the morning and from five to six in the evening. Great figures like William Bramwell, however, would spend half the night in prayer besides, and afterwards go through a district like a flame of fire. If only the millions of Methodists today would esteem prayer as did their great forefathers, what might not happen!

Finney depended more upon the prayers of fathers Nash and Clary to bring down Holy Ghost revival than upon his own resistless logic. So accustomed are we today to the Laodicean condition of the Church that the all-pervading influence of prayer in Finney's times amazes us. Imagine forty ministers and missionaries being thrust into the Lord's harvest field as the result of prayer during one revival in a Rochester High School! By 1857, Finney was seeing fifty thousand a week turning to God. In many cities there was no building large enough to hold the prayer-meetings. It was at that time that the Fulton Street prayer-meeting started in a side room in a church, and in a few weeks had taxed the capacity of the entire building to the utmost, and had even overflowed to neighbouring churches.

In 1858, Mr. Spurgeon called his great congregation together and said: "The Spirit of God is saving multitudes now in the United States. Since God is no respecter of persons we will pray until He sends similar showers of blessing upon our land." The mighty re-



Jonathan Goforth

vival of 1859 was the answer. Mr. Moody, it is said, would not accept an invitation to conduct a mission unless he were given positive assurance that the way would be prepared by prayer. In the south of Wales, shortly before the great revival there in the early years of the present century, three hundred extra prayer-groups were formed. Wales, in fact, became almost like one great prayer-meeting. What was the result? Within two months seventy thousand turned to the Lord.

At Calcutta, in 1902, two lady missionaries of the Khassia Hills Mission listened to an address on prayer by the late Dr. Torrey. They were so moved by it that when they went back to their people their one theme was prayer. The result was that, by the Spring of 1905, the Khassians were praying everywhere. Revival, of course, was inevitable. Within a few months, over eight thousand additions were made to the Church in that one section of India.

In an early chapter we pointed out how that it was intense, believing prayer that had so much to do with the revival which, in 1907, brought fifty thousand Koreans to Christ. We are convinced, too, that all movements of the Spirit in China which have come within our own experience, may be traced to prayer. After one particularly moving series of meetings a missionary remarked to me, "Since the Lord did so much with our small amount of praying, what might He not have done if we had prayed as we ought?" "What is the secret of revival?" a great evangelist was once asked. "There is no secret," he replied. "Revival always comes in answer to prayer."

The Bible Revival

We wish to affirm, too, that we can entertain no hope of a mighty, globe-encircling Holy Spirit revival without there being first a back-to-the-Bible movement. The Author of the Bible is being greatly dishonored these days by the doubt cast upon His Word. It must, indeed, be a cause of intense grief to Him that the Book which alone testifies of the Lord Jesus should be so lightly esteemed by man. Unless the Bible is to us in very truth the Word of God, our prayers can be naught but sheer mockery. There never has been a revival except where there have been Christian men and women thoroughly believing in and wholeheartedly pleading the promises of God.

The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is the only weapon which has ever been mightily used in revival. Where it has been given for what it claims to be, the Word of God has always been like a sharp, two edged sword, like fire, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. When Luther got the Scriptures translated into German, that country was lost to Rome. Moody did not possess the learning of the schools, but he did know his Bible; and it is certain that the world never has known, and doubtful if it ever will know, his equal as an apostle of souls.

During my student days in Toronto my one weapon, in the jails and slums, was the Bible. In China I have often given from thirty-five to forty addresses in a week, practically all of them being simply Bible rehearsals. In fact, I think I can safely say that, during

(Continued on page 12)

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God Loves Fruit Trees!

(Continued from page 1)

is a sin. Not to support great Christian institutions which are true to the Word of God and which nourish all good Christian causes is forbidden in this Scripture. God loves His fruit trees and wants them protected.

We believe THE SWORD OF THE LORD is one of the fruit trees that God loves and wants to be cared for. How many thousands feed of the fruit of this tree! More than twenty thousand ministers of the gospel, and tens of thousands of Sunday school teachers, Christian parents and workers get life-sustaining spiritual food each week from THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Christians who believe the Bible, Christians who really want to win souls are obligated to love and help to care for this fruit tree which blesses so many thousands. This seems to be a clear Bible teaching applied to this work.

Of course the Jews, going into the land of Canaan as an invading army would be under great stress. One would be tempted to starve out the population by cutting down their olive yards, their fig orchards and their grapevines. But that was forbidden, even in the stress of war. Whatever the emergency, Jews were not allowed to cut down fruit trees and nut trees. Whatever the needs, the stresses, the emergencies, God still required His people not to destroy the fruit trees.

It may well be that every reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD has pressing duties to his church, to other Christian institutions, duties in his own community. But whatever the stresses under which Christians labor, they still are obligated to look after the fruit trees which God has raised up to feed the saints of God.

This Is Why We Have "Letter Month"

We believe that the confidence which our readers have in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, their deep feeling of loyalty is far greater than is usual for a Christian magazine. Most Christian magazines continue chiefly to promote denominational causes, or to promote a Christian school, or a foreign mission enterprise. Some of them are privately owned and run at private profit. THE SWORD OF THE LORD is unusual in that it has no institution to support. It makes no profit for the editor and publisher, nor for anyone else. It is a non-profit Christian magazine, run by the Sword of the Lord Foundation, a corporation not for profit, chartered under the laws of Illinois. THE SWORD OF THE LORD is run simply to promote soul winning, to uphold the old-time faith, to bring Christians nearer to God and to stir revival fires. These unselfish motives result in a Christian magazine which builds up all the good Christian institutions and stands for the

things that godly people everywhere stand for. We try to take care of all God's fruit trees. We defend evangelists from attack, we defend great Christian colleges, we promote soul-winning enterprises everywhere. We back up local churches and pastors. We feel that it is always important to be constructive and helpful and to stand for good people and good causes. Now, during Letter Month we feel it is an especially good time for every Bible-believing Christian who reads THE SWORD OF THE LORD to pay attention to this fruit tree.

Frankly, we want your letters. We want you to make a special effort to send subscriptions, or to buy books that you need or that someone near you needs, to send offerings to help our Free Literature Fund get the gospel out around the world. We want you to write that letter and do the thing which God has already laid on your heart, in spreading the gospel through THE SWORD OF THE LORD or any of our literature. Now is the time to buy a new Bible, or join the Sword Book Club, or simply to thank us for some blessings received through this revival weekly, THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

The flood of Letter Month mail has begun to come in. Will we get the 20,000 or 25,000 letters which we asked for? Frankly, we would not be surprised to get that many. Last year we got over 17,000 letters during Letter Month. Now our circulation is larger and we should get a larger mail. God wants us to have fruit on the tree for you who read week after week. Then surely God wants you to write us a good letter during Letter Month. Make helpful suggestions. Criticize us in brotherly fashion if you think you can help. Tell us what you need. Tell us how you have been blessed. And when you write, if possible, send a subscription to somebody or renew your own subscription, or allow us to serve you in any capacity possible.

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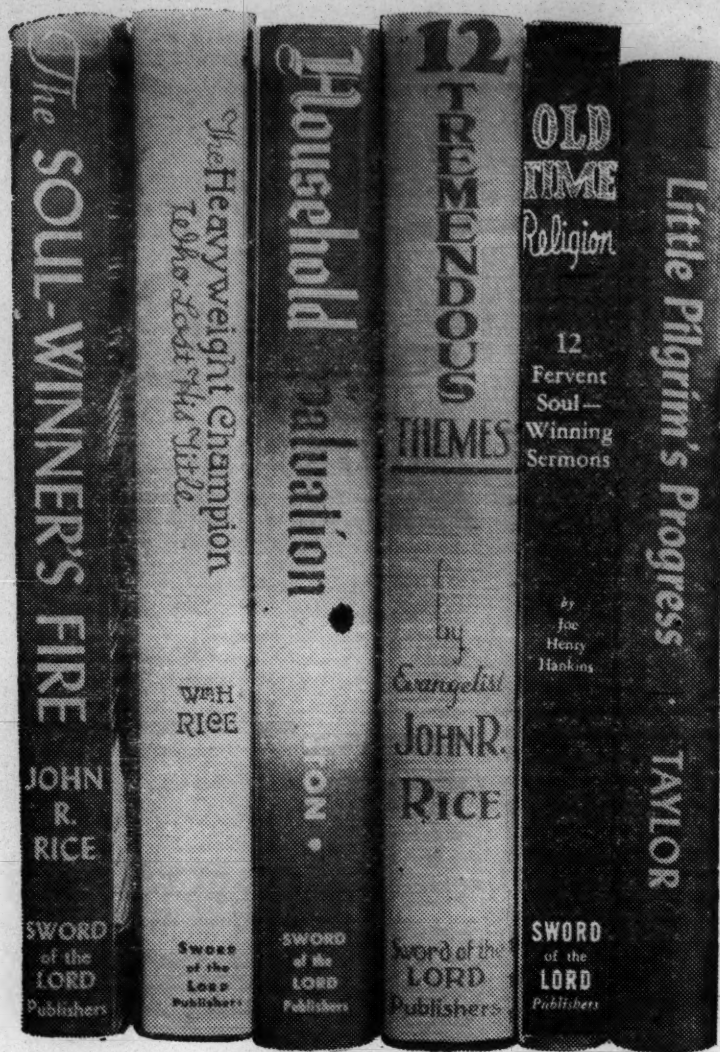
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Sword of the Lord Publishers
Wheaton, Illinois

What It Is

(Continued from page 1)

shown Himself to be willing. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). If you doubt it, you disbelieve and offend Him. Does it please Him, think you, when He utters this kind welcome: "Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out," to hear you reply: "O Lord, I cannot think that Thou wouldst receive such a one as I, if I should come"? Yet you do in effect say this every moment you cherish the feeling that you are too sinful to hope for pardon.

You must believe that He is willing now. Perhaps you have thought He would be willing, after a few more days or weeks spent in praying and weeping and growing better. Be assured your worst enemy wants no more than that you should continue to think so. You are growing no better. You are doing nothing to gain Christ's favor while you refuse to yield to His invitations. Until you believe that He is able and willing to save you, and to do it now, you will never be saved. The great enemy of your soul does not mind your setting a time far distant when you can go to Christ. If you will continue to place that time at the distance of a week or an hour, or a minute, his object is gained, and your soul is lost.

But you ask: "Does not a sinner, at the moment of his actual submission to the Saviour, feel more fit to be pardoned; and is not Christ more willing to pardon him than ever before?" No, dear friend. No! He was less fit to be pardoned, for his sins had been increasing every moment up to that very time, and Christ was no more willing to pardon him than He had always been.

III. To Cast Yourself Unreservedly on His Mercy and Trust in Him Alone for Salvation

The next thing required of you is to cast yourself unreservedly on His mercy and trust in Him alone for salvation. This implies that you renounce all expectations of saving yourself, or of being saved any other way than through the righteousness and redemption of Christ. Did you ever feel as if you had done all you could? Have you tried to think of something more to do to obtain hope and forgiveness? You have done too much in this way already.

Just stop doing, and begin to trust Christ to do all, and you are safe. A man is rowing a boat on a river just above a dreadful cataract. The current begins to bear him downward; the spectators on the banks give him up for lost. "He is gone!" they all exclaim. But in another moment a rope is thrown towards the wretched man; it strikes the water near the boat. Now how does the case stand? Do all the spectators call upon him to row, to row stronger, to try harder to reach the shore? Oh, no; the eager and united cry is: "Drop your oars! Give up your desperate attempt! Take hold of the rope." So all the sinner's hope lies not in struggling to save himself, but in ceasing to struggle; for while he expects soon to accomplish the work of salvation, he will not look to Christ to do it for him. It is not doing, but yielding, that is required.

But to say: "Why then do you urge me to become a Christian or to do anything? Why not let me sit still, and wait till Christ shall come and pardon me?" And what if the man in the boat dropped his oar, and then folded his hands and waited for the rope to save? He might as well have died rowing as sitting still, and would as certainly have died in the latter case as in the former. But he must grasp the rope. So the sinner must lay hold upon the Cross—not by waiting till he is better, but by first concluding that he shall never be any better in the way he is going on, and then looking to Christ. As he perceives the ground sinking beneath him, and feels how lost and wretched he is, filled with mingled despair and hope—despair in himself and hope



REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS
by Charles T. Lampman

Parker in Georgia

Dr. Monroe Parker (213 Bradley Blvd., Greenville, S. C.) reports a great revival at Cordele, Georgia. Crowds overflowed the Third Street Baptist Church, and the meetings continued in O'Neal Auditorium.

Joe Rice in Illinois

Evangelist Joe Rice, of the Sword Staff of Evangelists, recently closed revival meetings in the Calvary Baptist Church, Danville, Illinois. Pastor Jack W. Bennett writes:

"They [Evangelist Rice and songleader Steward] did a marvelous job for which we are grateful. The church certainly experienced a real revival. We had 19 additions to the church, one by letter and the rest by baptism; nine family altars started and 31 rededications. We had good crowds and a wonderful spirit throughout the entire meeting. I have never

had a finer team with me in all my twelve years in the ministry. I would recommend these men to any church desiring to hear the gospel of Christ."

Rev. Cyril H. Grover, Driftwood, Oklahoma, also wrote of the blessing of God upon meetings held by brother Rice, with "six professions of faith, three rededications and three additions to the church."

Brookshire in Pennsylvania

"The Protestant churches of Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania, joined for a united evangelistic campaign under the leadership of Joseph Brookshire and party. Week night services were held in First Presbyterian Church while Sunday evening services moved to the city auditorium. Not since Billy Sunday had the churches of the city united for such a mission. There were 116 public decisions for Christ."

in the power and mercy of Christ—he says:

"I stand upon a mountain's edge, Oh, save me, lest I fall."

His prayer is heard—the heart of the compassionate Saviour is ready to welcome him—the arms of mercy are stretched out to receive him—a word of kind welcome reaches his ear: "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." He believes that word—he trusts that heart—he falls into those arms, and he is safe.

Reader, does your heart say, "Lord, I believe, help Thou my unbelief"? Will you take the Saviour at His Word? Are you willing to trust Him to do the whole work of salvation?

If so, prostrate yourself before this waiting, insulted, and still compassionate Redeemer. Tell Him all your heart; put your soul in His hands, and He will pardon, accept and save you.

"Being justified freely by His

grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24).

"Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other Name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

"And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37).

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Arab King Gives Horses

(Continued from page 1)

swer to that was King Abdullah himself. Then, too, His majesty is a lover of fine horses and has one of the finest stables of Arabian horses in the world. Therefore, I decided to seek an audience with the King and asked my host at the "Y" to try to arrange it for me to visit the King in Ammon, the capital.

Audience With King Abdullah

Monday morning while Cathy and I were eating breakfast our host came in and said, "Mr. Rice, you are to see the King this morning at 9:00 o'clock." I looked at my watch and protested, "But it is after seven now—how can I get to Ammon by nine?"

"You don't have to go to Ammon," he replied, "His Majesty arrived in Jerusalem last night and is now at the palace just a few blocks from here."

At five minutes before nine I presented myself at the palace. Soldiers guarded the front door, bayonets fixed to their rifles. Inside I met several officers of the famous Arab Legion with ribbon-decorated chests. They greeted me cordially, asked if my visit was a political one (it wasn't), told me to stand until the King was seated, to keep my coat buttoned, not to cross my legs, not to smoke, (I don't) and that I must talk with the King through an interpreter. Then I was escorted into a large

room and introduced to His Majesty, King Abdullah Ibn Al Husain, ruler of Jordan.

I liked him.

The King is a rather small man who dresses in Arab costume. He was wearing a white scarf, called a *keffiyeh*, over his head. His long open robe and trousers were of a brown, coarse-looking material. His feet and legs were encased in black leather boots. These things I saw at a glance. Then I looked at his face and saw heavy eyebrows, straight nose, friendly eyes, short-cropped mustache and beard. I also saw gentleness, intelligence, dignity and strength—in that order. If I had not already known it, I doubt if I would have suspected him of the courage and skill he showed as an Arab general in the first World War, nor that he is still an expert horseman and a crack pistol shot. He looked like he might have a sense of humor and he looked like he had known suffering. As I said, I liked him.

The King waved me to a seat but I didn't know whether I ought to sit down until he was seated. He promptly sat down and I sat in the chair he had indicated across the room from him. An interpreter sat near me. I told the King I trusted he was well and he replied he was and hoped I was in good health. I thanked him for the privilege of seeing him and he assured me he was delighted to meet me. The formalities over, I got down to business.

Missionaries Welcomed In Jordan Kingdom

I told him I felt great sympathy for the thousands of refugees who were now homeless because of the war. I know what it is to be hungry, to sleep under a bridge or in a haystack, to have no home. Because I myself have experienced these things, I feel deep sympathy for others who know abject poverty. And some of the missionaries whose business, like mine, was to preach the gospel of Christ, had been made homeless because of the war. Some of them had lost everything except the clothes on their backs. Now, here in Jordan, they were building new homes and beginning new works.

Were they welcome? Was the



This new pamphlet by Dr. John R. Rice will be sent free to every person requesting it during the Fourth Annual Letter Month. Write today!

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in sympathy with the work of these men and women who felt led of God to work among the Arab people?

King Abdullah, chin in hand, listened intently. When I was through he waited a moment. "Are you finished?" he asked. I said I was.

He was, he said, a man of peace. He had not wanted war with Israel. War always brings sorrow. Israel was like a man who seeks to lie down in a nice bed only to find it full of pins. After being pricked with the pins he must remove them before he can rest easily. Israel had many things to straighten out before resting easily. But, he said, the fighting was over, he was glad it was past and he did not wish to speak of it.

Concerning the missionaries, he assured me they were most welcome. He felt they were doing valuable work for his people, he admired them, he appreciated them, he was glad they were making their home among the people of Jordan. They were welcome to stay and live in peace.

I assured him I appreciated his attitude. We talked about the missionaries for a few minutes more and I felt it was about time to go. That was before I had mentioned the word, "horse," to him.

King And Evangelist Discuss Horses

I asked him about Arabian horses. I would like to ship one or two to America. Could he advise me about procuring good horses? His face lighted up with interest at once. Did I know anything about horses? Sure—born on a ranch, I had been raised in the cattle country of West Texas and had ridden all my life. He was plainly delighted and asked me to come sit beside him. I did and we talked about horses.

He told me it might be difficult for me to buy an Arabian mare because the seller is entitled to the first two colts she produces after being sold. He asked why I wanted Arabian horses and I told him about the ranch we own in Tennessee, our plans for a conference ground where deaf children in particular were to be helped, how we needed more horses and I wanted to introduce Arabian blood to our fine Tennessee Walking horses. I showed him a picture of my fourteen-year-old daughter with our African lion cub, Noel. He complimented me on my beautiful daughter and was greatly interested in the lion. He sent a

servant for eye glasses in order to examine the picture more closely.

He felt the Arabian were the finest of horses, he told me with his hand on my shoulder.

"You have two horses," he said. I thought it was a question. "Yes," I replied, "I have several horses back in Tennessee."

"You have two fine Arabian horses," he said.

Again I thought it was a question. "No, Your Highness," I replied, "I do not have any Arabian horses."

"Yes," he insisted, "you have two fine thoroughbred Arabian horses. I give them to you from my own stable. I give you a fine stallion and I also give you a splendid mare to match the stallion!"

For a moment I was too amazed to even say, "Thank you."

He told me to arrange to ship them to America and he would send them to the seaport of Beirut for me. Then he invited me to visit him in his palace in Ammon, the capital city, the next day to see my horses. I gladly accepted the invitation.

Evangelist Gives King Magnum Revolver

"I would like to present you with a gift also," I said.

He smiled. "I have given you a gift you like. Can you give me a gift that I would enjoy?"

"I am not a king," I reminded him, "and I do not have such gifts as you have so graciously given me. Nevertheless, we are both men and I have a gift I believe such a man as you would like—the very finest revolver made in America. A sheriff got it for me to use on my Africa trip and I have fired it less than one hundred times. It is a Magnum, the finest revolver made in the world."

He was pleased. "You do, indeed, have a present for me I would like very much to have," he said, "and I accept your gift with pleasure."

I sent the gun to him, in a cowboy holster made by Scorchy Woodward, by one of his officers.

The next afternoon Cathy and I went to Ammon. The King received us graciously in the beautiful palace surrounded by lovely gardens. He sent for the horses and as two soldiers threw open great double doors, we walked out on the porch. Below us, in the driveway, were the horses. Held

by soldiers, one stood on our right and the other on the left. A beautiful matched pair the color of copper. The stallion, rearing and whistling, had eyes only for the beautiful mare some forty feet away. She, like a woman, pretended not to notice him but pranced, with arched neck, around the man holding her halter. Their glossy coats shining in the sun, they were a lovely sight. I was more than pleased and again thanked the King.

An interesting event took place later when we were drinking coffee with the King and his aid, Colonel Saddi. The Colonel had not seen the gun I had given His Majesty and the King unlocked a drawer in his great desk to show the Colonel the gun. The Colonel drew his own revolver, extracted a bullet, and tried to put it in the new gun. But for some reason he was unable to do so. I walked casually over and put out my hand to take the gun and show him how to load it when he quickly drew the gun out of my reach. He made it plain that I was not to have a loaded gun in my hand while in the King's presence.

I understood his viewpoint, was not at all offended, and drew back several paces. After the gun was again locked in the desk, King Abdullah drew back his robe to reveal a jeweled dagger and a small pistol in a covered holster fastened to his belt. He said something to the Colonel who came to the King's side, drew the King's pistol from his belt and handed it to the King. His Majesty then turned to me and handed me the loaded revolver! The rather sick-looking Colonel explained that His Majesty wanted my opinion of his personal revolver! I felt the Colonel was on edge as I took the gun, looked at it, hefted it and aimed it at the wall. He seemed relieved when I gave it back to the king, who handed it to the Colonel, who replaced it in the King's holster! (Incidentally, it was a .32 Colt, snub-nosed.)

The King had plainly said by his actions, "I trust you and am perfectly willing to stand unarmed in your presence while you hold my loaded revolver."

His Majesty felt that my lovely wife would enjoy looking through the palace and asked the Colonel to be our guide and escort. After that we left for Jerusalem.

God Loves Fruit Trees!

(Continued from page 3)

for it. We believe it will stir your heart for soul winning or show the sin of not winning souls and will show you how to win souls. Will you let us send you this book as our gift, a token of our deep regard for our readers? Remember this attractive pamphlet printed in red ink with pictured cover is absolutely free whether you order anything or not. (But please don't ask us to pay postage on your letter. Stamp your own envelope.)

2. Another new pamphlet which you will want is *Infidels—Answered by Three Immortals*. Here are 24 large pages printed in blue. The immortals who answer infidels are B. H. Carroll whose wonderful essay on "My Infidelity and What Became of It" starts the book off. This is a beautiful classic, heart-moving, called by a great homiletics professor "one of the greatest sermons ever printed." Then Dr. R. A. Torrey tells "How I Know There Is a God." Then Mr. Soltan tells about Mr. Moody and the free thinkers. You will be thrilled by this book. Infidels would usually read it gladly and we believe it will turn many from their sins to trust Christ. This pamphlet with the pictures of Carroll, Torrey and Moody is sent absolutely free with every cash retail order of from \$1.00 to \$4.99, during Letter Month, if you ask for it. Order anything we sell, books, Bibles, tracts, subscriptions, either a renewal for yourself or subscriptions for others, and say you want the pamphlet, *Infidels—Answered by Three Immortals*. You will like it, you will be thrilled by it! It is brand-new.

3. Evangelist Billy Graham is having as big crowds as Billy Sunday ever had in wonderful revival campaigns in principal

cities over the United States. The book of the Billy Graham revivals is *Revival in Our Time*. It tells about Billy Graham, Cliff Barrows, his song leader, Beverly Shea, soloist, etc. It tells of the great Los Angeles revival and the one in Columbia, South Carolina, and the one in Boston. Included are six sermons by Billy Graham himself. This book, *Revival in Our Time*, has eight pages of pictures. It sells everywhere for \$2.00. This is the first edition. You may have a copy absolutely free with every cash retail order of \$5.00 or more. This is a very unusual offer, and I feel sure you will be delighted with this nice clothbound book with its thrilling chapters and its stirring pictures of great revival crowds, the evangelist and his party, etc. Remember it is absolutely free with cash retail orders of \$5.00 or more. But be sure to ask for it!

4. We have made a special price on six books. They are:

The Old-Time Religion, twelve revival sermons by Dr. Joe Henry Hankins, regular price \$1.75;

Household Salvation, nine strong sermons by Evangelist John Linton, \$1.50;

Heavyweight Champion Who Lost His Title, ten revival sermons by Evangelist Bill Rice, editor's brother, and associate editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, price \$1.50;

Little Pilgrim's Progress. A charmingly rewritten *Pilgrim's Progress* for children. There are 256 pages, the plastic-bound board cover is beautiful. Good for children and adults. Price \$1.50;

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The Soul-Winner's Fire in our (Continued on page 12)

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Sword Paper and Books Around the World

Choice Letters From Holland, India, Alaska, Spain, Philippine Islands, Alaska, Spain, Central America, Canada, South Africa, Cuba and Japan Show Scope of Work in Foreign Countries.

By Viola Walden, Secretary to the Editor

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The proof of whether God is blessing the Sword of the Lord publications is in the mail from those who read this literature. Because readers of *The Sword of the Lord* have helped—with prayers, with money—to spread the work to foreign countries, we share with you a small portion of the hundreds of letters received daily, many from foreign lands. We have chosen for this article only letters which have recently come from foreign lands. After reading the letters below, surely you will catch a new vision of the hunger of people in all lands for good gospel literature—and oh, it is so rare these days!

"What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and "Sword" Get Through Papal Curtain

From an accredited evangelistic agency in Holland a respected official writes:

"This card (which he enclosed) we got back from Spain will show that your tract, *'What Must I Do to Be Saved?'* even penetrates the most dark countries on this continent. Through our secret channels we can get your material through the splits and holes in the papal curtain which separates Spain from the world. The translation of the message on the card is that the addressee received a package in good condition. The tract, *'What Must I Do to Be Saved?'* by John R. Rice was the best ever received in Spain, and he expresses his gratitude to everyone who made it possible that he could get this valuable material. We trust you will feel inclined to continue in providing the illegal and underground Christian workers in that unhappy country with the necessary Gospel ammunition, and therefore we beg you to be so kind as to have sent an additional supply of the Spanish edition of your tract, *'What Must I Do to Be Saved?'*"

(2,000 Spanish booklets are being mailed from our Wheaton office immediately, to fill this request.) In the same mail came direct from Spain a letter from (we omit man's name for his own security). Some excerpts from his pleading letter follows:

"Years ago I was favored with several copies of your wonderfully blessed weekly, *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. The first day that I read some of the Holy Spirit inspired sermons it contained a new day began in my life. I am now 41 years old . . . I entered the Baptist Seminary of Barcelona, Spain . . . During very hard and sorrowful years I lived without holiness, without joy, without power. I sinned against my Saviour, grieved the Holy Spirit. I prayed, I suffered, I wept, I almost died in my desperation. But when I was in the deep of the spiritual misery, one of your sermons on the sin in a Christian came to give me new hope . . . The Lord gave me pardon, and filled me once more with His fire, His love, and His passion for souls . . . I am now serving the Lord Jesus in a very difficult district.

"The Spanish province is one of the most intolerant, superstitious and ignorant provinces of this poor Rome-dominated Spain. Only one noble lady missionary . . . and I are workers for a population of more than 500,000 inhabitants . . . In one year more than one hundred souls have been saved in my church and other stations our church is maintaining.

"I am indebted to you and wish to give my thanks for *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* and the *Scarlet Sin* book you sent to me. I have prayed for you and have been very glad when I had notice of some of your great victories . . . You are one of the biggest champions that the glorious Son of David has as His special guards. You are winning many thousands; I only a few dozen, but you and I are working for the same Master, and I am sure that you are glad that even here in this remote Spain arrives your spiritual influence. You helped me to find peace and joy in the Lord and power to save souls. Will you help me, Brother Rice, to win hundreds or perhaps thousands of my countrymen? . . ."

In fulfilling the needs of this hungry preacher, we are sending some more of Dr. Rice's books to fire his soul and help him in his preaching ministry.

Minister Says "Sword" Received on Tiny Island 600 Miles From Russia

25 March, 1951

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"Several years ago I wire-recorded several hours of your transcriptions (radio) on the home, courtship, and marriage. The Adak Christian Fellowship heard these records last week and were overjoyed with your messages. We are located on a tiny island just 600 miles from Russia, completely isolated from everything, and in the center of the Alaskan Aleutian chain.

"One family up here at Adak receives *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* and passes them out to the servicemen when they are finished with them.

(Signed) REV. EDDIE NYCUM

"Sword" Sermons Translated Into Spanish

Rev. Frank H. Melbourne of the Central American Mission, Honduras, C. A., writes May 3:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I would like to inform you how much we have enjoyed the series of articles on tithing.

"Both sides of the issues have been read carefully and thoughtfully—yours and Dr. Guedj's, as well as Rev. James Drake's letter and your reply to him. There is not

"Dear Dr. Rice: This is a result of your honest and earnest preaching of the Word of God. I always consider you a part of this church. In fact, you are supposed to be the founder of this church. You didn't know that your efforts in preaching an unadulterated gospel have penetrated even to this far corner of the earth." Bernabe B. Morales, Jimenez, Misamis Occidental Mindanao, Philippines.

the slightest doubt to us, Dr. Rice, but that yours is the true and Scriptural position. No true believer will hesitate to support his church to the limit, if that church is worthy, but neither in I Corinthians 16:2 nor in any other part of the New Testament can a basis be found to oblige a Christian to give all his tithes to a local church. We therefore thank God that you have the courage to clearly state your convictions as you see them in the light of the Word of God.

"I am constantly taking sermons from *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* and translating them into Spanish. Sometimes I will take an outline from one of these sermons and use it as the 'frame work' of a message, with much blessing as a result." FRANK H. MELBOURNE

"P.S. Just this moment your program has come on the air, via HCJB. It is very clear and above all, the message is heart-warming. God bless His own precious Word!"

(Dr. Rice may be heard in English on HCJB, Quito, Ecuador, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m., also Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 p.m., Central Standard Time. Please note that those living in the Eastern Standard Time Zone will hear the broadcasts an hour later, that is at 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Those living in Mountain Time will hear them at 3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Those living on Pacific Coast Time will hear them at 2:00 p.m. and at 9:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are short wave broadcasts and can be heard nearly around the world.

Deep Sea Diver Writes

Grand Harbour
Grand Manan, N. B.
February 25, 1951

"Dear Christian Friends:

"Find enclosed a Money Order for \$6.50 for a three-year renewal for *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. My wife and I were converted three years ago, and have taken this paper ever since. I cannot praise it enough. I save every issue. . . I love to listen to the gospel preached, yet the printed sermon holds an appeal for me in a different way than hearing a sermon. Sometimes one can in the quiet of one's own room read over and over, stop and meditate, and in so doing get more from the printed sermon than from the Word preached. I am in no way belittling the preached Word, only the good I get from it I get in a different way.

"I sent *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* to 10 different unsaved persons. One of them was saved in a Dr. John Rice campaign at Grand Harbour and told me that *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* played a very important part in his conversion.

"Trusting that you will always keep the same high standards you have in the past, for in these days of modernism in the pulpits and slack living Christians it is as a shining light to have such a paper as *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*."

SAMUEL GUPTILL

Missionary in Ontario Says Sword "Best Magazine I Receive"

The following letter is from a Hornepayne, Ontario, missionary:

"My mother has sent me for some time now your magazine, *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. It is the best magazine that I receive. I am a missionary with the Rural Life Mission and also with the Railway

Mission International and at the present another young man and myself are engaged in Christian work on a thousand mile of track along the C.N.R. from Capreol to Redditt in Northern Ontario . . ."

KEN NESBITT

"Soul Winner's Fire" Book Helps Cuban Decide to Be a Preacher

Rejoice with us over the call into the ministry of this Cuban friend, who read the book by Editor John R. Rice, *The Soul Winner's Fire*.

"Five years ago I wrote asking for a book, *The Soul Winner's Fire*. I study it. I decided to study in the Baptist Seminary to be a preacher and to win souls to the Lord Jesus. Now I finish my studies and am pastor in a little town of Candelaria. . . Pray for me."

JUAN B. PEREZ

"What Must I Do to Be Saved?" Booklet Distributed in Africa

African Bible Training Institute
Witbank, Transvaal
South Africa
February 17, 1951

"Dear Brother Rice,

"The consignment of your good tract, *'What Must I Do to Be Saved?'* reached us safely, and I want to thank you for this new lot of tracts which are so effective. I gave one to the African bus driver in Bulawayo, who confessed that he is unconverted, and to the African conductor, and they both were very pleased and grateful. I am endeavoring to distribute them among educated Africans, and I believe that there is a great field for this type of literature. I appreciate very much your kindness in donating these splendid tracts to the work here.

"I have wondered whether you would give permission to have them translated into Zulu and into Cinyanja, the languages that I am using most?

"May the Lord richly bless you in your work."

F. H. BURKE, Principal

Sword "Worth More than . . . Gold" to S. S. Superintendent in Africa

Delville
Germiston
(South Africa)

"Dear Friend,

"I have thought of words that might describe how precious your paper is to me. It certainly is worth more than its weight in gold. How eagerly I look forward to its arriving every week. It has brought great joy and help to our Sunday school family. I am Superintendent of our local Presbyterian Church Sunday school, and your paper has truly been a gift from God, for we so often use illustrations and sermons from it at our weekly prayer meeting, and preparation class. May God richly bless you in your service of soul winning."

P. VERMAAK

"What" Booklet Helps Native Japanese Find Christ

Field representative of the New Tribes Mission, Mr. Clifford V. Fanger, wrote, after receiving his first copy of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*:

" . . . We appreciate very much your sending this free of charge to us, and we find that it contains much that is a blessing and help.

"Also, I want to express my appreciation for the free tracts that you have provided. We have used your tract almost exclusively. I feel it is the best tract available in simple form, for our use among the Japanese. I have received a few

thousand from Brother Pietsch a number of times and about two months ago received about 15,000. We used most of these on a trip to Hokkaido, where we were able to have many street meetings and do considerable personal work. Your tract was very much appreciated.

"Just recently on a trip to Fukushima prefecture we gave one to a girl on the train. She read it through as we were sitting there. When Mr. Tomono, one of our workers, asked her if she understood what she had read, she said she did. She had only one question. He answered her question and then asked her whether she believed and she professed to do so. We are praising God for your part in this way, bringing in the harvest of souls here in Japan. Though I think you realize there are not masses turning to Christ here, yet we find almost every heart open and willing to consider the truth and many that respond to it. It is truly a great joy to be here and see God work in hearts and lives . . ."

CLIFFORD V. FANGER

Kohokuku, Yokohama, Japan

" . . . You Are Not Only Evangelizing in the States, But Also on the West European Continent"

13 March, 1951

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I thank you very much for the additional package with your books you were so kind as to favour me with.

"To say that I read with much interest some chapters already . . . is too weak an expression. Your book, *Power of Pentecost*, is read eagerly, with passion; I do not know the exact word in English. I read it as eagerly as your previous book on *Prayer*. The simple and practical view you have in bringing forth in a most serious manner those most important things is exactly what we are in need of here.

"Perhaps you are not aware of the fact that owing to your publications, you are not only evangelizing in the States, but also on the West European continent. Condensed sketches from your sermons and articles from *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* are circulating here among evangelists; parts from your books are published in the Dutch magazine, *Power from on High*; your articles are finding their ways in articles in various papers. . ."

"I am an engineer; I am not a doctor of theology, but of technical sciences; I am a little over fifty years. Since a number of years I felt not justified that I only gave money for our Lord's sake; I got the strong conviction that I also had to put at His disposition part of my time and of my organizing abilities. So I organized a number of missionaries, and still I am organizing such work. God had blessed my work and I have done things I never had thought that I would be able to do.

"It is no use troubling you with details—yet this work—how necessary it is, and how I am assured that I have to give all my forces to it. Though indeed I see it as a commission of God, it did not give me full satisfaction. I felt it too much an unpersonal organization work as such, and too little personal missionary work. I did organize mission work as mechanically and as practically minded for instance as I did organize a few years before the war our Nether-

(Continued on page 7)



Jimenez Baptist Church Founded Jan. 1, 1951

INVEST IN YOURSELF!

Build Up Body and Soul at One of These Sword Summer Conferences—

- Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia, July 9-15;
- Latham Springs Baptist Encampment, Aquilla, Texas, August 5-10;
- Baptist State Assembly Grounds, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, August 12-17

By Viola Walden, Secretary to Dr. Rice

"Guaranteed to please or your money refunded" means that a customer must be completely satisfied, or he has a right to get his money back. The Sword of the Lord Foundation is willing to go along with that slogan. Not only will we make that guarantee, but we are safe in saying that you will be so completely satisfied with the spiritual blessing you will receive at either of the three Sword of the Lord conferences this year that next year you will bring someone else with you, with whom you may share that blessing.

How true it has been in Sword of the Lord Conferences on Revival and Soul Winning for the past several years! Year before last a doctor and wife attended the conference at Lake Louise; they were so blessed that they took another vacation a month later, and were at the second conference, at Siloam Springs, Arkansas. One social worker for the state of Mississippi came with a friend to the Sword Conference at Lake Louise two years ago; last year she brought two carloads of people to the conference held at Cedar Lake, Indiana. These incidents have been repeated over and over. Once you have experienced how God meets with us at the conferences, you will want to share with others the good things you hear.

The Purpose of These Conferences

No matter what may be your spiritual need when you arrive, we believe it will be met some time during your week's stay on the grounds. Last year at Lake Louise, five surrendered to the ministry under the Spirit-filled preaching of great men of God. Many come who lack something in their spiritual life and go away with victory.

At the three Sword conferences this year, you may meet some of the greatest preachers in America today, those whom the Lord is using in a mighty way to bring revival to this land, and to build great churches.

Conference Speakers

DR. BOB JONES, SR., began preaching at the age of fifteen in a brush arbor revival in Alabama. He has preached for fifty years to more people face to face, and has seen more people claim Christ as Saviour than any other living man. He founded the great Bob Jones University, now located at Greenville, South Carolina, which has approximately 3,000 students. Dr. Bob is a contemporary of R. A. Torrey, Billy Sunday, and Gypsy Smith and is still going strong. His messages will revive and rekindle every believer. He represents evangelism of the last generation at its best. Every young preacher who hears him will be moved to do evangelistic preaching. Pastors and Christian workers will find rich help and deep blessing out of his messages. He is God's man, with God's message today. Even though Dr. Jones has a tremendously heavy schedule, he has consented to bring some messages again this year at the Lake Louise Conference.

"Nothing succeeds like success." A man whom God has raised up to bless America is DR. LEE ROBERSON. He has built a great work in Chattanooga, baptizing 1,168 new converts in the last church year—the largest number of baptisms in any church throughout the land, and probably in the world. God is doing marvelous things through this man—one of the greatest soul winners among Southern Baptists. He will tell you how to win souls, why God cannot bless stale Christians, and he will draw from rich experiences in his own life and ministry.

A new voice at Sword conferences this year is REV. WILLIAM POWELL, pastor of High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, who has built a church of 4,000 members, with the greatest soul-winning program in Missouri. If you have never heard his chal-

lenging messages, you are in for the treat of your life. He will lay a burden on your heart which you will not get away from until you are doing your best for God. Hear him tell how to build a great soul-winning church, how to be an effective soul winner, how to win souls through the Sunday school, and what hinders the work of God in your life.

This year at two of the conferences you will be privileged to hear a man whose ministry is in demand all over the nation, DR. SAM MORRIS, "The Voice of Temperance," whom the wets consider the greatest menace to their business in a generation, also a mighty preacher of the gospel. No one can estimate the influence Morris has had on the lives of individuals, but thousands have written to him to say that his temperance broadcasts have turned them from drink and to the Lord Jesus Christ. His famous temperance lecture will be a highlight at two conferences.

At the three conferences you may hear a missionary just returned from Japan, tell of the marvelous way in which God is working in that part of the world. He has seen miracles—many miracles—happen. Moving pictures will be shown of the work of missionaries in Japan. How your heart will burn as DR. FRED JARVIS presents the challenge to get the gospel into countries while the door is still open. He is a new voice; don't miss hearing him.

Bill Rice is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute; was for three years an evangelist on the Moody staff. His ministry has been greatly blessed of God. Thousands have been won to Christ under his charming, vital, and Spirit-filled preaching. You who have never heard him, yet are contemplating attending one of the Sword conferences this year, are in for another real treat. Any parent with children in the home would do well to make a special effort to hear Brother Bill preach his famous sermon on discipline of children. He is the father of four, who are good examples of his preaching. This year he has spent four months in Africa, and in the Holy Land. He will have many interesting stories to tell—as only Brother Bill can tell them—of his many experiences on foreign soil. And he has shot hundreds of feet of remarkable film and has gone places on this trip where many a veteran missionary has been unable to go. He has on film the whole ceremony of a witch doctor's casting out evil spirits; see the pygmies, the elephants, the harrowing experiences Bill has had, and the narrow escapes! Brother Bill sent one batch of film back to the states which cost \$40 alone for postage, movies taken the first month of the speaking tour under the African Inland Mission. He will have many shots of the Holy Land, of his preaching to hundreds at the Nile River. So aside from his blessed Spirit-filled messages, we will relive with him his missionary experiences. Don't miss them.

For sixteen years, while other Christian leaders were lamenting that the day of great revivals was past, DR. JOHN R. RICE consistently preached that we could have old-fashioned, city-shaking revivals with thousands saved. He envisioned revival campaigns that would result in a new and mighty mis-

sionary impetus that would win millions of souls around the world, that would build and support great Christian institutions that came with the ministry of great evangelists of the past. And Dr. Rice set out to vitalize his vision. He encouraged evangelists. He introduced thirty or forty evangelists to the public. He opened doors for evangelists and evangelism. He defended evangelists, established these Sword of the Lord conferences on soul winning and revival. So he is acclaimed by many as being one of the greatest influences in recent years for revival in America. Dr. Rice, the director of the summer conferences, will speak daily and will be available for counsel throughout the day.

Sermons on Film

"Pay-Day — Some-Day"

President of 6 million Southern Baptists and pastor of one of the largest Baptist churches in the world, with around 8,000 members, DR. ROBERT G. LEE is known far and wide for his powerful oratory as a preacher of the gospel. His famous sermon film, "Pay-Day—Some-Day," will be shown at each of the conferences. This is the dramatic story of how sin extracts its wages from King Ahab and his wicked and daring wife, Queen Jezebel. It is a production which runs approximately 90 minutes. There is never a dull moment in this brilliant sermon. Dr. Lee has preached this sermon over 400 times, and it is his most famous one. Don't miss hearing . . . and seeing on film . . . this great orator-preacher.

The Light of the World

Another tremendous attraction at the Sword conferences this year will be the showing of Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.'s sermon film, "The Light of the World." A thirty-minute, black and white picture, "Light of the World" is a masterful work, incorporating many interesting scenes with the dramatization of several actual incidents. This film was produced in Bob Jones University's "Unusual Film" Studio. Technically professional and spiritually uplifting.

Musical Program

REV. AND MRS. WARREN STEWARD will blend their voices together in beautiful harmony of sweet gospel songs throughout the conference days. Mr. Steward has been song leader for Dr. Rice in his revival campaigns for over a year, and has assisted other well-known and greatly-used evangelists of the nation in campaigns. He will bless your heart . . . and get you to sing, too. Mr. Lane will sing with them in a trio from time to time, to lift your soul.

This year, as last, will be featured the "four-star" pianist, MR. ALBERT LANE. You have never heard such piano playing as Mr. Lane does. Not only is he a top-notch pianist, but a good singer who will bless your heart. So the musical program will be an added attraction to the conferences.

Dr. Rice and his daughters, Mr. Lane and the Stewards will introduce a number of new songs and choruses with the power of the Holy Spirit upon them. They will sing

Lord, give me a vision

Lake Louise Toccoa, Georgia

RATES

Rooms—For one; For two Private bath—\$2.25 \$4.00 Connecting bath \$2.00 \$3.50 Plain room for 2 persons \$1.50 each. Plain room for 4-8 persons (Double Deckers). \$1.00 each. Dormitory Double Decker (10 or more in room)—For 3 nights or more 75c each.

Meals: \$2.25 per day (3 meals) "Family Style." Children under 8—half price. Advance Room Reservation: \$2.00 per person. There will be a \$1.00 registration fee collected upon assignment of room. Mail all reservations direct to conference ground.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.
Dr. Lee Roberson
Dr. Fred Jarvis
Evangelist William H. Rice
Dr. John R. Rice
Dr. Robert G. Lee (on film)

Sword Books Around the World

(Continued from page 6)

land Polytechnic Institute (a kind of Technical College).

"It was when I was pondering over these matters that a copy of your paper or of your booklets happened to come to hand. . . . By some reason or other I must have read one of your calls for revival, and so I saw my new task before me, that is to say to work for a revival also in this country where there has been no revival since the reformation in 1550 . . . In case you could feel led to pray for us, be sure that indirectly you are praying for a mission work which is partly your own mission work in a remote country."

DR. R. H. BORKENT
Den Haag, Holland

An Urgent Plea to Spread the Gospel

Most letters contain an urgent request—for free literature or translation permission.

Several weeks ago we printed a letter from India, asking permission to translate the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" into the Marathi language in India. One thousand dollars would print 200,000 copies, they said. Our readers graciously, through the appeal, supplied that need, and this week we have sent a check to the Youth for Christ leader there, who is helping with the

*Oh, help me to see
The needs all around me,
Souls dying for Thee.
Oh, make me a blessing
As onward I go,
By telling the story
That others may know.*

*Lord, give me a vision
Of fields that are white,
Of souls we must gather
Ere cometh the night.
Dark shadows are gathering,
And some may be lost,
Some neighbor or brother,
How awful the cost!*

We will have it on a famous recording, and the duet will sing it over and over. Dr. Rice's choruses, "The Price of Revival," "Souls are Dying," and others like, "The Windows of Heaven," "Under the Blood of Jesus," will burn into your heart and we trust never to be forgotten.

We will bring with us this year some recordings of other great singers—George Beverly Shea, Al

(Continued on page 9)

work, for \$1,081.90. Now pray with us that hundreds will be won to Christ through this tract, which gives the plan of salvation so clear.

Many of our readers will remember that several months ago we told of the need to get THE SWORD OF THE LORD into the hands of hundreds of Japanese ministers who so needed the true gospel to combat modernistic teaching in Japan. Already, Rev. Timothy Pietsch has sent us the names of over 400 of these preachers, with about 500 others to follow, as soon as he can get their names copied from their requests. Each of these ministers was sent a letter, telling them about the paper and asking if they would like to have it coming to them. The response has been great. Oh, what THE SWORD can do in the lives of these ministers!

While doors in foreign lands are still wide open, we are entering them as fast as we can, as evidenced by the letters quoted.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you, in Jesus' name—all you who have helped so generously with your gifts. Surely you are having no little part in this work of reaching hungryhearted people. This is as great a missionary work as we know. We in the Sword office want you to know that the far-reaching extent of this work could not be carried on without your help. Missionaries are working with us in these lands. We invite your continued support of the Free Literature Fund—in fact, in view of the need expressed in the letters above, we urge your support. Every penny is used just as you designate it. Every request for free literature is prayerfully weighed. If you wish to help supply such needs as come in to our office daily, please pray about it, then use the convenient coupon below, filling out your name and address, and amount you wish to go toward the Free Literature Fund. Dr. Rice will personally acknowledge gifts, and a receipt will be sent for income-tax purposes. Ask God to lead you as to what you ought to do. And may God bless you. Above all, continue praying for God to give all of us wisdom as to how to spread the gospel more widely. "Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded" (II Chron. 15:7).

Free Literature Fund Coupon

Date

Dr. John R. Rice
Sword of the Lord Publishers
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Dr. Rice:

Enclosed please find \$..... for the Free Literature Fund. Use it to send out Sword literature where the need is greatest at this time.

Signed

Address

Latham Springs Encampment Aquilla, Texas

RATES

50c per person per night for cabin, cot and mattress. Meals are 50c per meal—a total of \$2 a day for meals and cabin. No refunds on meals or lodging except in case of sickness or some other emergency.

For very small children, a half plate is served for 25c.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Sam Morris
Dr. Fred Jarvis
Evangelist Wm. H. Rice
Dr. John R. Rice
Dr. Robert G. Lee (on film)
Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. (on film)

Baptist State Assembly Grounds, Siloam Springs, Arkansas

RATES

Day Rates	Dorm.	Cabin	Weekly Rate (6 days)	Dorm.	Cabin
Meal	\$2	\$2	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Bed	50c	75c	2.50	2.50	3.50
Res.	25c	25c	1.00	1.00	1.00

(Cabins for married couples and families only)

Children 3 through 7 years of age, meals \$1 per year of age; bed \$2.50 per week, or 50c a day.

Children 8 through 11 years of age, meals \$9 per week; bed \$2.50 per week, or 50c a day.

NO REFUNDS FOR MEALS NOT TAKEN. Conference week begins with breakfast, Sunday, and ends with supper Friday.

For reservation, send \$1 per person.

SPEAKERS

Dr. William Dowell
Dr. Sam Morris
Dr. Fred Jarvis
Evangelist Wm. H. Rice
Dr. John R. Rice
Dr. Robert G. Lee (on film)
Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. (on film)

Jesus May Come Today!

(Continued from page 2)

also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

In Luke 12:39,40, Jesus said: "And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

The coming of a thief to break in and steal is a matter that people ought always to be forewarned and forearmed about. There is no set time for the thief to come. He may come at any moment. Therefore every householder ought to be prepared and constantly watching. Just so the coming of the Saviour may be at any moment, and the only way for us to be safe from embarrassment and shame when He comes is to be watching and ready. The saved who slumber and have their lamps smoking will be embarrassed; the lost who have no oil of salvation will not only be ashamed but will be left behind and will miss the wedding.

III. Sinner, Take Warning!

Let the unsaved readers observe the note of solemn warning in all these passages where Jesus spoke of His coming. Every time He mentions that we should watch because He might return any hour of any day there is a thrill of joy for the Christian, and yet there is a solemn and fearful thought for the unsaved.

"As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be," Jesus said. And remember that all the world, except eight souls, perished in that terrible flood because of their wickedness of which they did not repent!

And when Jesus spoke of the return of a master to call his servants to account after a long absence, He warned of the fearful punishment that would befall the unfaithful servant who began to eat and drink with the drunken and to beat the other servants, etc. The coming of Christ for His saints will be a sad day for every unsaved soul.

His coming is likened unto a thief in the night, and like the householder who is not ready has his home broken up and his goods stolen, so every sinner who has not trusted Christ will find himself bereft of the most precious things in this world—His loved ones who are Christians. Many a man will have mother, father, wife, babies or dear friends taken away in an instant, and he be left to face a world gone mad in sin with every single Christian removed at one stroke!

Some few will be saved during the great tribulation, but even then they cannot miss the tribulation. Some of the virgins who had no oil in their lamps may go back and get oil, but when they come to knock at the door where the wedding is, they will find the door is shut and they are left outside. Some will be saved, I say, during the great tribulation, but at what terrible cost! With churches closed, preachers gone, loved ones gone, they will be left as poor, crying babes in a wilderness of sin without a single man of God to teach them, without an older Christian to comfort them or give them strength.

And saddest of all is this fact: when Christ comes and takes away all His saints, then most of the good influences will be taken out of this world and most of those who reject Christ will then plunge headlong into such sin as they never before dreamed of. The Antichrist will be so deceptive and his power so terrible that few will oppose him. None can buy or sell without taking his mark, and those who take his mark will never be saved. Many of those who are saved will endure the fiercest persecution, hunted like wild beasts and put to death for the cause of Christ. Those who are unsaved when Jesus comes for His saints will be left behind and most of them then will never, never, never turn to Christ for salvation.

You who read these lines, then, make sure that you are saved

now for Jesus may come today. It is terribly dangerous for any unsaved sinner to live one day without Christ. It will be a thousand-fold more dangerous to go into the great tribulation without Jesus when all the saints have been taken out at the coming of the Saviour.

IV. Objections Answered

Here I can imagine that some reader says, "I know that the words of Jesus seem to teach that He may return at any time. But certain other Scriptures appear to contradict that." Some good Christian people do not understand certain passages of Scripture relating to the second coming, and so stumble at this blessed teaching that the Saviour may return at any moment. Therefore they do not constantly watch as He commanded. They miss the joy of "the blessed hope."

However, since the Bible never contradicts itself, it will not be difficult to reconcile these Scriptures, and that I will try to do and show that there is no prophesied event to come before the return of Christ.

(1). It is sometimes said the gospel must first be preached to all the world before Jesus comes; that He cannot return for His saints until the evangelization of the world is completed.

The Scripture quoted for this is Matthew 24:14:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

The mistake here is in supposing that "the end" is the coming of Christ to take away His saints. Rather, "the end" is the end of the tribulation time. In the same passage, verse 8 tells about "the beginning of sorrows," which I believe is the time just after the rapture of the saints. Verse 21 in the same passage says: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Remember that there are two phases of the coming of Christ. First, He will come into the air and call out His saints to meet Him. This is the first part of His coming, the part always referred to by Jesus when He said, "Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" and made similar statements. Then on the earth there will intervene the seventieth or last "week" of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27). On the earth then there will be "the beginning of sorrows," and in the last half of the "week," three and one-half years of great tribulation while the Antichrist rules the world. Then Christ will return from Heaven, coming literally in the clouds with the saints and angels to fight the battle of Armageddon, destroy the kingdoms of the Antichrist, and reign upon earth. During the great tribulation this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all the world and then will come the end of the tribulation in the battle of Armageddon when Christ comes to set up His kingdom. That is what Matthew 24:14 means. The gospel or good news of the coming reign of Christ will be preached by a newly converted remnant in all the world after Christ comes and takes away His saints.

But in any case, the gospel has already been preached "in all the world for a witness unto all nations." At Pentecost we are told that "there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven," that is, those who had come to abide there temporarily during the feast, probably from the time of the Passover through Pentecost. We are told that these heard the gospel by the Spirit-filled Christians and that they were "out of every nation under heaven."

At a Bible Conference where I answered many Bible questions, came a full-blooded Indian from Oklahoma who asked for an interview. He had heard me on the radio and was sent by his tribe from northern Oklahoma to ask me this question. Opening his Bible to this verse, Acts 2:5, he said, "My people want to know if



any of those devout Jews were from America, among the Indians and prehistoric races in America at that time." His question certainly astonished me, and for a time I did not know what to answer. He continued to tell me how traditions had come down through the years from father to son among his people about God, the creation, the flood, and even some faint glimmer of ideas about the Christ. All I could tell him was that I believed the statement of the Scriptures, though I did not know whether the Scripture meant that there were Jews present who had lived among the American Indians or not. In any case, the gospel was preached to representatives in all the world when it was preached at Pentecost.

Again we are told about the church at Rome that "your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world" (Rom. 1:8), and Paul wrote to the Colossians about "The gospel; which is come unto you, as it is in all the world" (Col. 1:5, 6). So the gospel has already been preached in all the world. Even if Matthew 24:14 referred to this age, then it has already been fulfilled. We ought to do all we can to get the gospel to every creature, but the second coming of Christ need not be delayed awaiting evangelization of the world. Jesus may come at any moment. No prophesied event is to intervene before the coming of Christ to take away His saints.

(2). Some people believe that the coming of the man of sin, the son of perdition, or Antichrist, must precede the coming of Christ. They have in mind the warning of II Thessalonians 2:1-3 as follows:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."

The above Scripture plainly warns that "the day of Christ" is not "at hand." Some had evidently written in Paul's name, and others had evidently quoted Paul as saying that the day of Christ was at hand, that is, impending soon. Paul urged them not to be deceived since this day of Christ cannot come until there comes a great falling away and the man of sin or son of perdition (the Antichrist) be revealed.

But we must not confuse "the day of Christ" and the coming of Christ for His saints. The day of Christ here means the same as "the day of the Lord," a term used many, many times throughout the Bible. That term refers always to that future time when Christ will visibly, bodily, personally and literally return to the earth, destroy the armies of the Antichrist at the battle of Armageddon and set up His throne at Jerusalem and there begin His millennial reign. "The day of Christ" or "the day of the Lord" includes all the millennial reign of Christ until He shall turn the kingdom over to His Father. The day or period of Christ means the time of His rule. But the term, "the day of the Lord," or of Christ, never refers to Christ's coming into the air as a Bride-

groom for His bride when the Christian dead will be raised and living Christians will be changed and all caught out together to meet Christ in the air. The rapture, the hope of the church when we will be caught out with Jesus for a honeymoon in our Father's house of many mansions which Jesus is now preparing for us, comes before "the day of Christ" or "the day of the Lord." After Christ takes out His saints, and the Holy Spirit who makes His abode in the bodies of the saints is taken away, then the man of sin will be revealed and will run his short and terrible course. The Holy Spirit who dwells in Christians now hinders the man of sin so that he does not appear and is not revealed to the world as yet. But as soon as we are taken out, then the man of sin will be revealed. Following him then will come the day of the Lord or the day of Christ.

The coming of Christ to the earth when His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives when He shall fight the battle of Armageddon and sit on His throne at Jerusalem is not imminent. The coming of Christ into the air to call out His saints, both living and dead, to meet Him, is imminent. With this in mind, you can see that this passage of Scripture does not contradict the many plain passages where the Saviour warns us that His coming will be like a thief in the night or like the flood on the unsuspecting wicked in Noah's day, or like the unexpected return of the master to judge his servants after a long absence.

After the rapture of the saints, then there is a well defined train of events foretold in the Bible, and those on the earth may know if they will read the Word of God about when the Saviour will return to destroy the man of sin and set up His kingdom. They may know about when the day of the Lord will come. But before that is the sudden coming of Jesus into the air for which all of us are to watch earnestly since no one knows that day nor the hour and since He may come at any moment.

After studying the Scriptures which prove the imminence of Christ's coming, it becomes evident that the saints must be called out of this world before the great tribulation. In order that the rapture may be the great surprise which is foretold in the Scripture, then the rapture of the saints must be the next event prophesied in the Bible. It must come before the battle of Armageddon, come before the reign of the man of sin, or the great tribulation time. The thing that every Christian should watch for next is not the appearing of the Antichrist, not the restoration of the Roman Empire, not the mark of the beast, not the great tribulation, not the last great war and the battle of Armageddon, and not the reign of Christ at Jerusalem;

but the coming of Christ for His saints.

V. New Testament Christians Expected Christ to Come In Their Lifetime

We have given above many of the plain statements of Jesus in the gospels concerning His imminent coming, but the rest of the New Testament is equally clear. New Testament Christians expected Jesus to come at any moment.

The people at Corinth were "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" as the apostle Paul wrote by divine inspiration (I Cor. 1:7). The people of Thessalonica "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come" (I Thess. 1:9, 10). After people were saved in New Testament times, Paul properly taught them to be looking for and waiting for the coming of the Saviour! They knew His coming might be at any moment.

Writing to the Philippians, Paul said, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body..." (Phil. 3:20, 21). Paul himself was continually looking for the coming of the Saviour. He had in mind here the time of the rapture when he would have a changed body, caught out to meet Christ.

To Paul was given the highest revelations in New Testament times, we suppose. He wrote fourteen books of the Bible, (if we include as his the book of Hebrews, which I think we should). He was not only a great teacher, but was himself so filled with the Spirit that he was caught up into the third heaven and received revelations that were not lawful to utter. He was the most used of God of any New Testament character, and will meet more souls whom he won to Christ than any other apostle. And it was constantly in the mind of Paul that Jesus would come, possibly in his lifetime, so he looked for Him steadily.

When Paul wrote about the rapture of the saints, that event when Christ comes into the air to receive His own, he wrote of himself as being among the living. In I Thessalonians 4:15 he said, "We which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep."

"We which are alive and remain" Paul expected to be alive and remain until Jesus came. Again in the seventeenth verse of the same passage he said, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." The Christian dead are mentioned in the third

(Continued on page 9)

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Jesus May Come!

(Continued from page 8)

person, but the living are mentioned in the plural, first person. It was Paul's confident hope, nay, his expectation, that he should be living when Jesus should come. That is how clearly the apostles were taught the imminency of Christ's return. They knew that He might return any moment.

Likewise, in I Corinthians 15: 51, 52, Paul says:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but WE shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and WE shall be changed."

Again Paul spoke of the dead in the third person, "The dead shall be raised," but he spoke of himself with all the living, saying, "And we shall be changed." Again you notice that this is the time of the rapture when Christ calls His saints out to meet Him in the air. He is not speaking of the day of the Lord, a little later when Christ returns with all the saints to destroy the Antichrist and reign on the earth.

In James the fifth chapter are several references to the coming of Jesus as if He might come at any moment. To Jewish Christians scattered abroad, the inspired writer says, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord" (verse 7). In verse 8 he says, "The coming of the Lord draweth nigh." In verse 9 he says, "Behold, the judge standeth before the door." These statements would only be true for that generation (or for any other generation, for that matter), if Jesus might be expected at any moment. It is the clear testimony of all the New Testament that we should expect Him at that hour or any time since the time of the apostles.

The imminency of the coming of the Saviour, and of course of the things that follow, are clearly taught by the Apostle Peter. In I Peter 4:7, we are told, "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." We are reminded of the exhortation of Jesus that "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

The coming of the Saviour was at hand in the sense that He might come at any moment; and in the same sense His coming is still at hand.

The book of Second Peter was written primarily with this in mind to stir up the people, reminding them of the promises of the apostles and prophets concerning the coming of the Saviour. Here is what that book says:

(Continued on page 11)

Invest!

(Continued on page 7)

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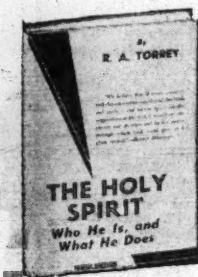
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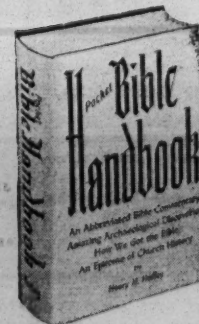
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Jesus May Come Today!

(Continued from page 9)

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" — II Peter 3:1-4.

And then follows in verse 9 the inspired explanation of why the coming of Christ has been postponed.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The coming of the Lord is at hand: it is only God's mercy that delays His coming so that others may be saved!

One should notice, too, that it is scoffers and unbelievers who will not believe that the Saviour is likely to come soon. These scoffers and unbelievers walk after their own lusts, (verse 3) and do not believe in direct creation and other miracles of God (verse 5). Dear reader, do not put yourself among these scoffers! Believe the Word of God that Jesus is coming. We believe He is coming very soon, we know that He may come at any moment.

VI. The Closing Testimony of the Bible

Today I have been greatly impressed with the powerful exhortation given us in the last chapter of the Bible concerning the coming of the Saviour. Here God's revelation to man is finished; the canon of Scripture is closed. And in the last chapter of Revelation at least five times we are warned that the Saviour is likely to come at any moment. Verse 6 says, "These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things WHICH MUST SHORTLY BE DONE."

Any honest interpretation of that verse must agree that it means the events pictured in Revelation must shortly be fulfilled, that is, every reader should look forward and expect Him soon. And remember that the next thing on God's calendar is the coming of the Saviour to take away His saints.

And then in verse 7 the Saviour said, "BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

Jesus is coming quickly. Is not that meant for a warning that you must be ready? Does not that mean that Jesus is likely to come at any moment? Unless this Bible is a fraud we must understand it so. The time is not named, but we are warned to be on our guard, to watch and be ready.

Again, in verse 10 the Lord said, "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for THE TIME IS AT HAND."

"The time is at hand!" That is what Peter said (I Peter 4:7). The coming of the Saviour is at hand.

Then in verse 12 we are warned again, "AND, BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY: and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

And then the last verse in the Bible besides the closing benediction is verse 20 which says, "He

which testifieth these things saith, SURELY I COME QUICKLY. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Conclusion: Are You Ready?

Quickly! Quickly! QUICKLY! Jesus is coming quickly! He may come at any moment; it seems certain that He will come soon. Brother, are you ready?

I beg every Christian to lay aside the cares and covetousness and pleasure of this world that would prevent you from being happy if Jesus should come today. Here we must return to the words of the Saviour in Luke 21:34-36.

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth: Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Notice these commands, "Take heed to yourselves." Your heart will be overcharged with eating, and drinking, and the cares of this life, and so that day will come upon you unawares, the Saviour said, "if you do not beware." "Watch ye therefore, and pray always" is the next command of Jesus. Christians are to take heed about their lives. They are to watch hopefully, expectantly for the Saviour's coming, and they are to pray often for His coming. Jesus gave it in the model prayer, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." That prayer asks for the return of Jesus and for His kingdom and all the related events. And John, the beloved disciple, was allowed to use the impassioned and Spirit-directed prayer of his heart when he cried out, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20). So, Christians, take heed, watch and pray. Do not lose your testimony. Do not be too busy about making money. Do not get too absorbed in pleasure. Do not eat too much or drink too much. God will destroy both the belly and the meats, Paul says. Rather, look for Jesus and live a pure life and win souls so you will not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

And, sinner, are you ready for Jesus to come? If not, only one thing will make you ready, and that is for you to trust Him today to forgive you, surrender your whole heart to Him, claim Him as your Saviour! Do it today! Make sure of it while you can, and then you, too, can join in the happy watching for the coming of the Saviour.

Do you believe that Jesus is coming? Then the way to prove it is to win souls, separate yourself from the wickedness of this world and let your light shine while you can.

When I used to play college football, the referee would call to the captains of the opposing teams,

"Are you ready, Decatur?"

"Are you ready, Denton?"

And the whistle would blow.

So with an earnest heart I call today to every reader,

"Are you ready, Christian?"

"Are you ready, sinner?"

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

(From the book, *Twelve Tremendous Themes*, Sword of the Lord Publishers, 177 pages, \$1.50.)



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Revival Campaign Report No. 10

By Charles T. Lampman, Managing Editor

With this report for the week of May 7-12 there remains only one more week in the ten-week "Revival-by-Mail" campaign which began March 9.

During the week for which we are reporting there were 19 conversions reported, 48 persons asked for free copies of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and 49 persons sent in lists of unsaved loved ones and friends.

Since the campaign began 75,200 copies of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" have been distributed; 25,146 free of charge and 50,054 at cost (26,647 copies shipped during the campaign but not previously reported were added this week).

Of the 19 conversions reported

this week 17 were through the instrumentality of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and two through sermons in THE SWORD; a man in Avon, Illinois, through "The Purpose of the Law," by Dr. W. A. Criswell, (SWORD, April 27, 1951), and another in Carthage, North Carolina, through "God's Way of Salvation," by Alexander Marshall (SWORD, May 4, 1951).

Since the "Revival-by-Mail" campaign was announced 136 persons have written us professing conversion. We praise God for His grace and blessing!

Reported Conversions

Since March 9, 1951

"What Must I Do to Be Saved?" 100

Other Sword Literature 36

136

(Campaign Goal: More than 527)

Copies of "What" Given Free 25,146

Copies of "What" Sold at Cost 50,054

75,200

(Campaign Goal: 250,000)

Prayer lists Received 552

552

and pleaded with him that he would spare to them this one idol.

He might do as he wished with the others, they said, but if he took this god from them, too, they might just as well die. They pleaded with such intensity that, for a moment, the heart of the conqueror was touched. It seemed more than heartless to bereave these poor people of what was apparently life and death to them. Then he remembered his vow to spare not one idol. The will of Allah was plain. He had a sledge hammer brought to him, and with it he dealt the idol one terrific blow. To his amazement there poured from the rent in the image a stream of jewels and precious stones. The people had hidden their treasures in the image, hoping to move the conqueror to spare it. Consider what his loss would have been if he had stayed his hand at the sacrifice of that one last idol.

The Holy Ghost — Essential to Revival

Was there ever such an incomparable opportunity for Christian leaders to get rid of their ecclesiastical idols and bring themselves into heart contact with the unsearchable riches of Christ as at the Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910? There has been no Church gathering in modern times around which such expectations have centered. Missionary leaders had come from all parts of the world. It was the confident hope of many that a new era in missions had dawned. The subject for the last day was—"The Home Base." It provoked visions of endless possibilities. The home churches, empowered by a mighty

Holy Ghost Revival, would send out men fitted as were Paul and Barnabas. With their enormous resources in men and means—the world would be evangelized in a generation.

Alas! it was only a dream. Never have I experienced such keen pain and disappointment as I did that day. Of the many who addressed that great missionary gathering not more than three emphasized God the Holy Spirit as the one essential factor in world evangelization. Listening to the addresses that day, one could not but conclude that the giving of the Gospel to lost mankind was largely a matter of better organization, better equipment, more men and women. Symptoms, indeed, were not lacking that a few more sparks might have precipitated an explosion. But no, the dethronement of the idol of ecclesiastical self-sufficiency was apparently too great a price to pay.

But, brethren, the Spirit of God is with us still. Pentecost is yet within our grasp. If revival is being withheld from us it is because some idol remains still enthroned; because we still insist in placing our reliance in human schemes; because we still refuse to face the unchangeable truth that "it is not by might, but BY MY SPIRIT."

(Reprinted from *By My Spirit* by permission of Zondervan Publishers.)

God Loves!

(Continued from page 5)

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Remember that any three of these books may be bought during Letter Month for \$3.00, or suppose we put it that any three or more may be bought for \$1.00 each. You may buy as many copies of one book as you want, or you may buy four of them for \$4.00 or all six of them for \$6.00. But you must buy three or more to get this price. Here is a wonderful saving averaging one-third

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We are still being pressed to get out the gospel through literature in the United States, in Spanish-speaking countries, in India, and now comes a new call for \$500 worth of literature in addition to "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in Portuguese. We covet your prayers about this important part of our work.

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Factors in Revivals

(Continued from page 3)

the forty-one years that I have been on the foreign field, I have never once addressed a Chinese audience without an open Bible in my hand, from which I could say, "Thus saith the Lord!" I have always taken it for granted that the simple preaching of the Word would bring men to Christ. It has never failed me yet. My Chinese pastor, one of the most consecrated men I have ever met, was saved from a life of shame and vice by the first Gospel address which he ever heard me give.

My deepest regret, on reaching threescore years and ten, is that I have not devoted more time to the study of the Bible. Still, in less than nineteen years I have gone through the New Testament in Chinese fifty-five times. That prince of Bible-teachers, Dr. Campbell Morgan, has declared that he would not attempt to teach any book in the Bible unless he had first read it over at least fifty times. Some years ago, I understand, a gentleman attended English Keswick and was so fired with a zeal for the Bible that in three years he read it through twelve times. One would imagine, of course, that he belonged to the leisured class. On the contrary, however, he began his day's work at the Motherwell steel plant at 5:30 a.m.

The Bible was not so neglected a Book when the great revivals of 1857-59 swept over the United States and Great Britain. Neither was it so neglected in Moody's

time. During the late Manchu dynasty, scholars were expected to know the classics of their sages off by heart. How do the scholars of so-called Christian lands measure up to that standard as regards the "World's Great Classic"? It is nothing short of pathetic how so many, who come professedly to represent the Lord Jesus Christ in China, know so little of His Word. Thirty years ago the missionary ideal was to know the Bible so well that one would not have to carry around a concordance. Is the indifference to the Bible today on the part of so many missionaries due to the fact, perhaps, that they have discovered some better means with which to meet the needs of a sin-sick world?

Christ Must Be Put First

Finally, the call to revival must be a call to exalt Jesus Christ in our hearts as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is like an Everest peak, rising from level plain. There must be room only for Him, if we would have Him dwell with us at all. Every idol must be smashed; every darling Isaac laid on the altar; every urge of self denied. Then, and then only, can we expect the larger fields to open before us. It is said of Mahmud, the great Moslem warrior that, in his trail of conquest through Northern India, it was his practice to destroy all idols which fell into his hands. He came at last to the city of Gugeratt, where there was an idol which was held in unusually high esteem by the people. The chief notables of the city came to the general

The Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

two churches in St. John, New Brunswick, there were 238 public professions of faith.

OUR HEARTS HAVE BEEN MADE very happy in the Sword of the Lord office over reports of many people being saved during our Revival-by-Mail. When this is written I think there have been about 130 people claiming Christ as Saviour who wrote to tell us so. We hope that there have been ten times as many people saved who were somewhat influenced by THE SWORD OF THE LORD Revival-by-Mail. Thousands of copies of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" have been given out and it is our faith that God is using them in hundreds of hearts from whom we have not heard. The Revival-by-Mail is formally drawing to a close. Of course we will continue to try to win souls and stir revival fires and help Christians all through the year.

LETTER MONTH IS JUST NOW GETTING into full swing and I thank the Lord for evidence that our tens of thousands of friends are going to stand by us and give us a blessed response. Have you written your letter yet? We feel a solemn obligation to prepare the copy for THE SWORD OF THE LORD and get it out every week, fifty-two weeks a year. It is not too much to ask one good grateful letter during Letter Month is it? Don't miss the opportunity to have my new 32-page pamphlet on *Bloody Hands and How to Cleanse Them* while you can have it just for the asking.

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